

Better Together

When Lincoln Park Zoo embarked on a new strategic plan a year ago, we set out to improve the lives of animals in the zoo and in the wild, deliver transformational guest experiences, and welcome everyone with an unwavering commitment to remain free and accessible to all.

Success is never a solo venture. And looking back at this year, we are filled with gratitude for the collaborations that have enabled our mission and our new plan.

Lincoln Park Zoo veterinarians teamed up with RUSH University Medical Center to perform life-saving surgery on Zhang, a Francois langur monkey, a first-of-its-kind procedure for this species. With the support of MedVet, our Animal Care and veterinary teams also performed groundbreaking spinal surgery on African lion cub Lomelok, extending his life and time with the pride.

We connected with organizations to pioneer new accessibility programs at the zoo. A new Memory Enrichment program with Sunrise Senior Living, the first zoo-based program of its kind, provided connection for people with dementia and support for their caregivers. With Columbia College, we launched American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation of Seal Training, Ape Cognition, and Iguana Care demonstrations. We welcomed more than 1,000 guests for new Sensory-Friendly Mornings at the zoo and Sensory-Friendly ZooLights, with support from KultureCity.

The world took notice: Lincoln Park Zoo was recently recognized with the Kennedy Center's Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) Community Asset Award, the highest honor a U.S. cultural organization can receive for advancing the field of accessibility.

Our community engagement work continues in Little Village and North Lawndale, and we launched new partnerships in Austin. We are honored to collaborate with Latinos Progresando, OPEN Center for the Arts, Enlace Chicago, Project Exploration, BUILD Chicago, Bethel New Life, True Value Boys and Girls Club, and the North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN) to extend the mission of the zoo beyond our Lincoln Park campus. We were the proud recipients of community partner awards from both NLEN and Project Exploration.

Outside zoo gates, our urban wildlife programs expanded. The Urban Wildlife Institute partnered with the Obama Presidential Center to ensure that its construction isn't negatively impacting biodiversity in the area. The Urban Wildlife Information Network grew to 54 partners—from Ohio to Argentina—working together to learn about and improve life for urban-dwelling animals.

And there's more. In the past year we became the first zoo partner of Monitor Conservation Research Society, helping to lead the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking. With KopeLion, we tracked the migratory paths of lions in Tanzania, and with Goualougo Triangle Ape Project colleagues we helped protect 36 square miles of forest by working to annex it into national parkland. With Morton Arboretum, we ensured a dignified end of life for a historic bur oak.

We hope you are as proud as we are of Lincoln Park Zoo's ongoing accomplishments. Your partnership as guests, members, trustees, donors, volunteers, staff, and supporters is what inspires us to be the best at what we do—leading the way for animal welfare, performing boots-on-the-ground conservation, and delivering magical moments of connection with nature, wildlife, and one another.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Fran Edwardson

Chair

Lincoln Park Zoo Board of Trustees

Megan R. Ross, Ph.D.

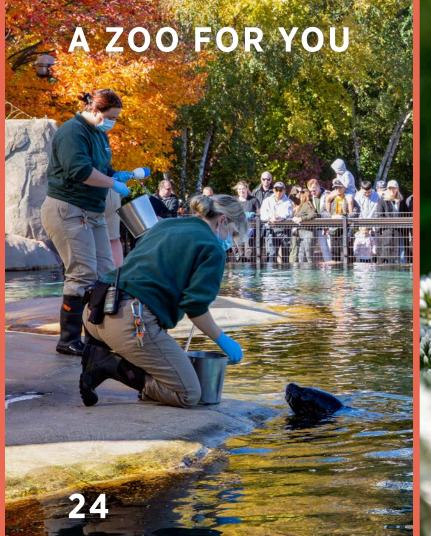
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President & CEO Lincoln Park Zoo





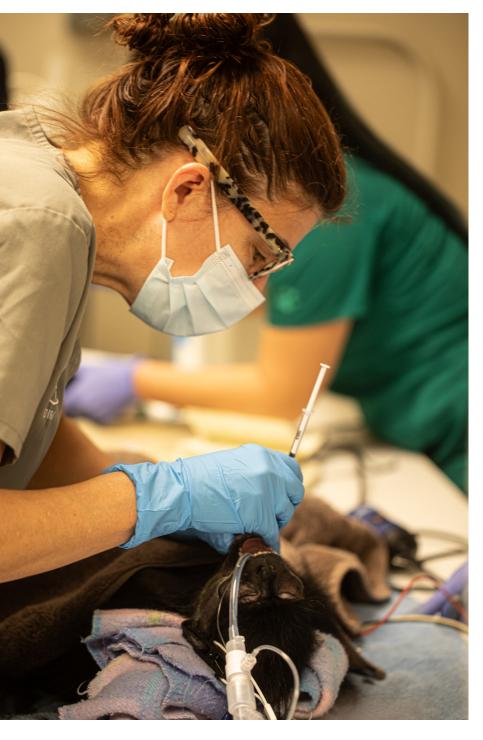








Caring Is in Our Nature



Every day at the zoo, more than 700 animals receive state-of-the-art care, from annual exams to emergency procedures. Last year, Zhang, a Francois' langur, was declared cancer-free after two intensive and complicated oral surgeries conducted by Dr. Lester E. Fisher Director of Veterinary Medicine Dr. Kathryn Gamble and RUSH University Medical Center's Director of Head and Neck Cancer Dr. Kerstin Stenson. After seeing a trend in this species over the course of a decade, Dr. Gamble detected this cancer early, making treatment possible and pioneering future medical plans for monkeys.

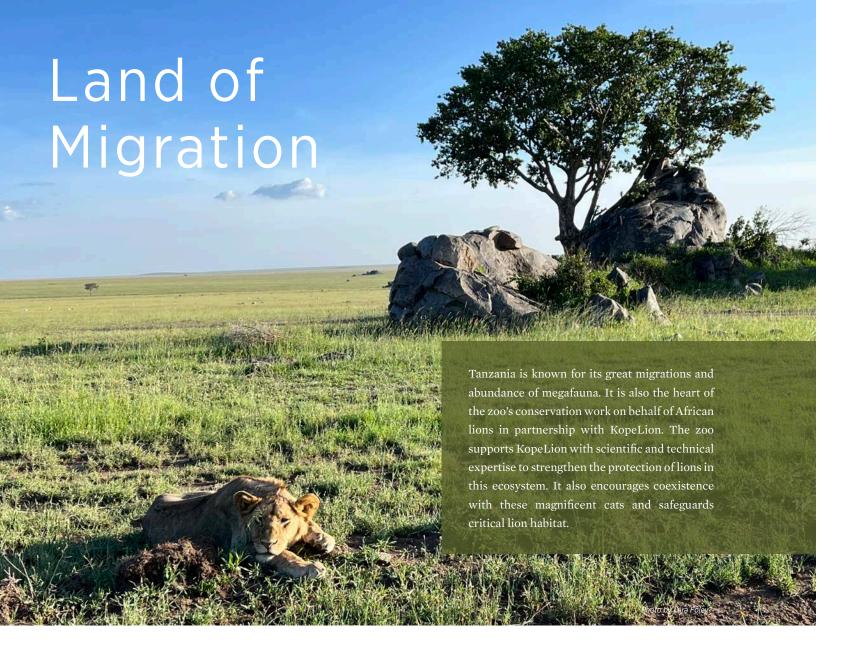




The Pride of Chicago

The African lions at the zoo continue to be a bright light—from queen Zari, who runs the pride, to firstborn Pilipili, who is full of personality. When a trio of cubs was born in January 2023, it became apparent that one, Lomelok, was having mobility challenges. After he was diagnosed with a narrowing of the channels that connect the nerves to the spine and a herniated disc, the zoo's veterinary team and partners at MedVet Chicago conducted an unprecedented surgery in the 14-month-old lion cub. After many weeks of medical intervention and physical therapy, it was clear Lomelok was still not progressing as a young cub should. The difficult decision was made to say goodbye—and to share the news transparently across the zoo's various channels so members of the public could feel as if they were part of the journey. Lomelok's legacy lives on through his brothers Pesho and Sidai, who continue to thrive alongside their older brother Pilipili.

Lion cubs at Pepper Family Wildlife Center Photo by Brandon Tucker



In February, President and CEO Dr. Megan Ross and Tanzania Conservation Research Program leaders Dr. Charles and Lara Foley led a safari for Trustees to see the impact of the zoo's investment in Tanzania. They met with local Maasai leaders and Ilchokuti, or lion guardians, who protect both the Maasai's herding lifestyle and healthy habitat for migrating lions.

Maasai leaders, Lincoln Park Zoo President and CEO Dr. Megan Ross, and Board Chair Fran Edwardson Photo by Lara Foley





Preventing Wildlife Trafficking

This year Lincoln Park Zoo further solidified its commitment to ending wildlife trafficking by partnering with Monitor Conservation Research Society, an international organization investigating wildlife trafficking and its drivers, while raising consumer awareness and advising policy. This partnership and the unveiling of an anti-trafficking installation at O'Hare International Airport were announced at a press conference featuring Monitor's Executive Director Chris Shepherd, Ph.D.; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and one of its wildlife detector dogs; the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) President and CEO Dan Ashe; the Illinois Department of Natural Resources; the Chicago Department of Aviation; and Congressman Mike Quigley. Since the launch of the partnership, the zoo has worked with Monitor to publish several papers highlighting the plight of species impacted by the trade, to raise concerns and inform protections, especially for songbirds often used in competitions.





Top to Bottom: Chinese Hwamei, O'Hare signage, detector dog Beans Photos by Brandon Tucker, Joann Raia, Christopher Bijalba



Conservationists around the world celebrated this year as the Republic of Congo agreed to protect the Djéké Triangle by making it a part of the adjacent Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park—the only habitat in the world where gorillas and chimpanzees live together. The newly protected area is a 36-square-mile region home to many threatened species, including great apes, forest elephants, and bongo antelopes, plus more than 300 bird and 1,000 plant species. Lincoln Park Zoo scholar and Director of the Goualougo Triangle Ape Project (GTAP), David Morgan, Ph.D., has conducted research in this area since 1999, which helped provide crucial evidence this region deserved legal protection.

Dr. Morgan and the GTAP team are part of Lincoln Park Zoo's globally recognized Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes. Established in 2004, this science center has brought together primate experts and organizations from around the world to collaborate on research, conservation, education, and advocacy. The Fisher Center increases human understanding of primates; and promotes progressive care, management, and protections for these complex animals.



IN THE CONGO BASIN

Take a walk through the Congolese forest and learn what it is like to save our closest living relatives. lpzoo.org/congo

Photo by Jillian Braun



THROUGH EXPERT LEADERSHIP

Welcome, Dr. Alex Weiss! In January 2024 Dr. Alex Weiss became the Director of the Fisher Center. Dr. Weiss is renowned expert on primate behavior and personality. He joined the zoo from the University of Edinburgh where he was a professor and led research on human and animal personality.

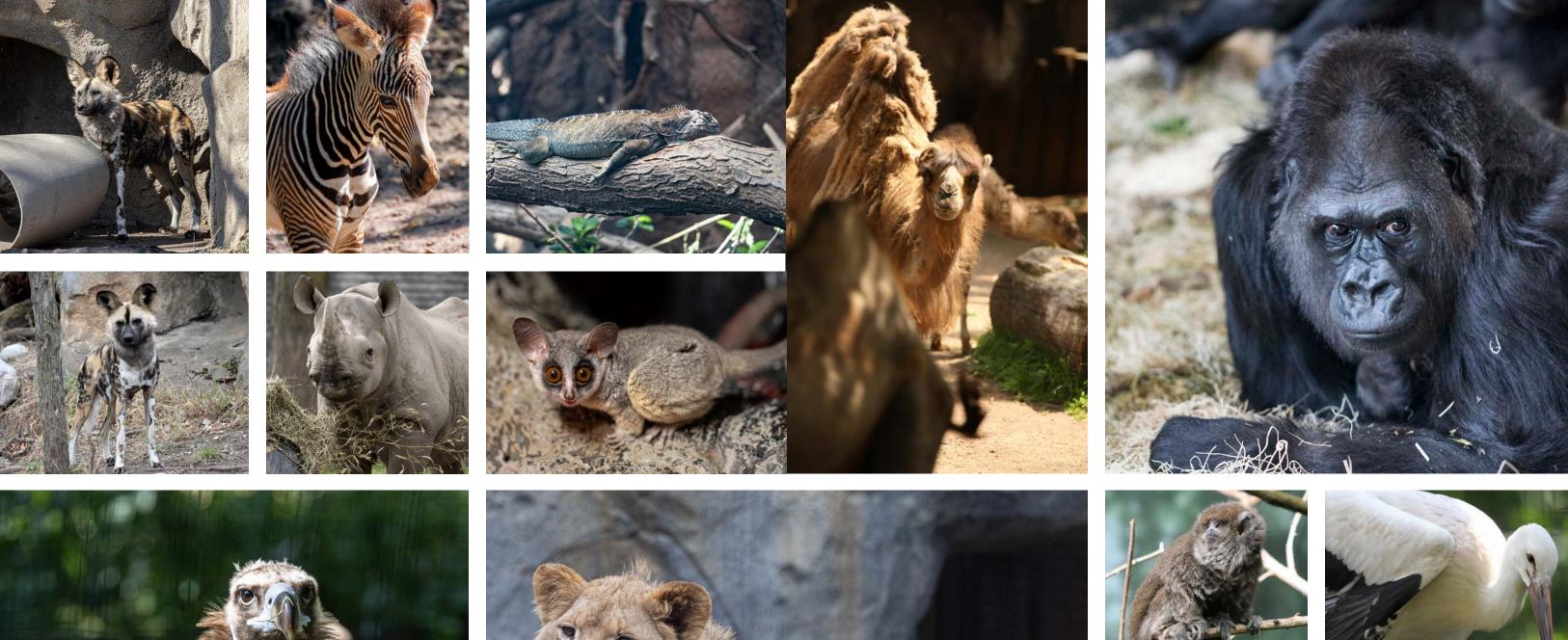
Photo courtesy of Alex Weiss



WITH GENEROUS DONOR COMMITMENTS

Zoo supporters for more than four decades, Al and Nancy Niemi, shared a love of nature. Visits to the Farm-in-the-Zoo were nostalgic for Al, who grew up on a farm, while Nancy loved gardening and taking long walks through the zoo. A behind-the-scenes visit to the Regenstein Center for African Apes inspired their deep dedication to the work of the zoo's Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes. Through a generous gift in their estate, they established the Albert and Nancy Niemi Endowment, which will provide enduring support for the Fisher Center, cementing their legacy and their commitment to improving the lives of apes.

Photo by Sarah Rutledge















The Circle of Life

We welcomed many animals to Lincoln Park Zoo last year. We also said goodbye to special friends. Some passed away, and others joined animal communities at other accredited zoos, as recommended by various Species Survival Plans® (SSP). Lincoln Park Zoo is home to AZA Population Management Center, which conducts genetic and demographic analysis to support SSP programs. This work helps to safeguard the genetic diversity, health, and individual wellbeing of animals throughout accredited zoos and aquariums.

WELCOME





VINCENT AND DANTE

Two African painted dogs, Vincent and Dante, joined female Frida to create a new pack at Regenstein African Journey. All three dogs were originally littermates at Knoxville Zoo and had a successful reunion.

Photos by Christopher Bijalba and Cassandra Kutilek



MOHOLI BUSHBABY

A tiny arrival in the form of a Moholi bushbaby joined the zoo this year thanks to parents Jellybean and Zeus. Bushbaby offspring are born fully furred with eyes open and are immediately capable of clinging to branches. This yet-to-benamed little one was no exception.

Photo by Christopher Bijalba



YABELO

After her pregnancy was confirmed by hormone analysis, Grevy's zebra Adia gave birth to a healthy, strong foal. The youngster was named Yabelo in reference to Yabelo Wildlife Sanctuary, a protected area in southern Ethiopia where this species ranges.

Photo by Brandon Tucker



LULU

Lulu may be a dainty name, but this female eastern black rhinoceros weighs in at over 1,600 pounds. Lulu arrived from Buffalo Zoo and we hope she will rear offspring with male Utenzi.

Photo courtesy of Buffalo Zoo



HELLSHIRE

Photo by Christopher Bijalba

There are now three Jamaican iguanas at Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House. Female Hellshire joins resident iguanas Hope and Edwin. Hellshire is the smallest of the iguanas and is named for part of the protected area that supports these iguanas and other endangered species.



VIRGINIA

Female cinerous vulture Virginia arrived from Blank Park Zoo to be a potential mate for resident male Leon. Virginia has a partial right-wing amputation; she can be seen sporting a custom bandage for comfort.

Photo by Christopher Bijalba

IN MEMORIAM



LOMELOK

African lion cub Lomelok's name means "sweet" in the Maa language and that perfectly described this goofy, resilient cub. He was known for his laid-back personality, both figuratively and literally; one of his favorite things to do was lie upside down and show his white belly fur.



NASAN

Bactrian camel Nasan was an incredible mother and member of the camel herd. She was most known for giving birth to a calf in 2016 that became a viral sensation due to his name: Alexander Camelton.

Photo by Todd Rosenberg



BANA

Western lowland gorilla Bana was 29 years old when she was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. She was an attentive mother to offspring Patty and Djeke, and when they were little could often be seen holding hands with them even while napping—she was always on the clock!

Photo by Christopher Bijalba



DELASOL

Delasol left quite a legacy behind, as the 33-year-old Bolivian gray titi monkey was the oldest living female in the accredited zoo population—a testament to her zest for life and her committed care team. She reared nine offspring and was known for her quiet confidence, excitement for pecans, and tail-twining behavior with family members.

Photo by Shannon McElmeel



MC

At 15 years old, Mo was a geriatric trumpeter swan with age-related health issues. We'd like to say this contributed to his curmudgeonly nature, but he had always been a typical swan with a spicy personality. He helped increase the trumpeter swan population with many cygnets, who were released into the wild to bolster the population.

Photo by Craig Keller



JETHRO

European white stork Jethro was 28 years old, surpassing the median life expectancy for his species by more than a decade. He and his female partner Cheyenne formed a strong and effective parental unit, raising nine chicks and fostering another three. Storks represent peace, happiness, and fertility—and that was certainly true of Jethro.

Photo by Todd Rosenberg



RHETT

Rhett lived to the age of 17, which is a rare feat in the red wolf population. Red wolves are critically endangered in the United States and Rhett contributed greatly to the conservation of the species by siring a litter of pups with partner Becca. He was a very good "dog" loved by many.

Photo by Kelsey Lotz







Healthy Wildlife, Healthy Cities

On an urbanizing planet feeling the stress of a changing climate and rapidly expanding cities, the zoo's Urban Wildlife Institute (UWI) and its global footprint, the Urban Wildlife Information Network (UWIN) are poised to transform the ways humans coexist with wildlife. UWI has been deeply involved in the construction of the Obama Presidential Center, scheduled to open in spring 2026 on 19.3 acres in Woodlawn's Jackson Park. They have monitored wildlife around the site for more than three years, ensuring that construction is not negatively impacting animals in the area. Data is being collected through motion-sensor cameras and bird and bat recorders; initial results suggest mammal activity remains mostly unaffected. UWIN scientists are also building a system to remove urban noise from audio files to identify birds by call. If successful, this effort would be a groundbreaking step forward in urban wildlife monitoring, increasing the number of species studied from dozens to hundreds.

Left: The bare bur oak stands for its last winter

Photo by Christopher Bijalba

Above: The Urban Wildlife Institute monitors trail cameras which support the largest and longest study of urban wildlife in the world Photo by Brandon Tucker

Rat Revelations







Dr. Seth Magle participates in interviews regarding urban wildlife—scan QR code to view.

Dr. Seth Magle, Director of the Urban Wildlife Institute, went viral this year when he revealed that the Chicago "Rat Hole" a Roscoe Village landmark was rather a "squirrel hole." But the work of the Chicago Rat Project, a group of scientists studying Chicago's rats to help prevent human-wildlife conflict and public health risks, is about much more than identifying impressions in concrete. UWI recently published a study showing that people who see rats in their house daily are more likely to have signs of depression. It also found that 100% of area raccoons, skunks, and opossums tested positive for rat poison. UWI is now examining the characteristics of community gardens that make them more susceptible to rat infestations.



cities now make up the Urban Wildlife Information Network

A Global Urban Network

In just six years, UWIN has grown to include 54 cities on four continents. The global network now harnesses a dataset large enough to reveal crucial new information about the health of urban wildlife and inform the cities of the future. In the last year, UWIN welcomed: Campinas, Brazil; Bariloche, Argentina; San Jose, Costa Rica; and Cleveland, Ohio. The data captured by UWIN partners is also being used by city planners to inform the building of trails and roads in places like Salt Lake City, Utah and Edmonton, Canada.



Co-creating Across Chicago





BUILDING BONDS IN LITTLE VILLAGE

Our community engagement work began in 2018 in Little Village with OPEN Center for the Arts and soon grew to include flagship programs such as Artecito and WILD Marshall Square. In 2023, the zoo was honored to celebrate the opening of Latinos Progresando's brand-new community center and headquarters. The Community Engagement team now splits its time between the zoo and these Little Village offices, fostering a more seamless partnership with collaborators and supporting out-of-school time programs on Chicago's south and west sides.

Ribbon cutting ceremony of Latinos Progresando's new community center in Little Village Photo by Vincent Gomez





THE BUZZ IN NORTH LAWNDALE

In February 2024, North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN) recognized Lincoln Park Zoo with the Creating a Community That Works Award, celebrating the zoo's commitment to advancing equity and change in North Lawndale. Since 2018, the zoo has collaborated with NLEN and the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council to co-create economic opportunities, provide high-quality exposure to career pathways in conservation, and connect residents to nature and wildlife.



Bouquet Making at NLEN

Photo by Dr. Elisha Hall



GROWSS Youth Council paid intern exploring nature with teammates at Big Marsh Park Photo by Jay Simon Photography



Memory Enrichment



Starting in fall 2023, Lincoln Park Zoo launched a free monthly program to connect adults living with dementia, with their caregivers and loved ones, to nature. Memory Enrichment allows participants to socialize, learn about nature, work on crafts, engage in multi-sensory experiences, and enjoy low-impact physical activities in a safe, supportive environment. The first program of its kind at a zoo or aquarium, Memory Enrichment received widespread attention from media outlets and was promoted by several organizations, including the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The program was designed in consultation with Sunrise Senior Living and welcomed more than 215 total attendees in its pilot year.

Families trick-or-treating at th Memory Enrichment event Photo by Bill Green



Accessible Interpretation

Through a partnership with Columbia College's American Sign Language (ASL)-English Interpretation program, Lincoln Park Zoo recently began offering ASL interpretation at select activities and animal demonstrations for guests who are Deaf or hard of hearing. Students who participated in the program provided hundreds of hours of interpretation, seven days a week, at guest programs like Seal Training and Feeding, Ape Cognition and Care, Jamaican Iguana Care, and other guest programs.

ASL interpretation at Giraffe Training Photo by Amy Mei Lynch





A Zoo for All

Lincoln Park Zoo's accessibility efforts, led by Hart Prins Fund Manager of Accessibility & Inclusion Bill Green, are gaining recognition with partner organizations across Chicago, and nationally. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts honored the zoo with its 2024 Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability (LEAD) Community Asset Award. Fun4theDisabled, a creative endeavor of the nonprofit Strategy for Access, also highlighted Lincoln Park Zoo as an inclusive destination in its "Accessible Chicago" docuseries.



ADVANCING AND ACCOMMODATING

A recent audience survey highlights how far Lincoln Park Zoo has come in welcoming people who need extra accommodations. In 2019, 10% of guests surveyed reported that a member of their group had a disability. In 2024, 24% of guests surveyed reported the same, an increase of 14%.

Sense. A trip to the zoo is part of their advanced class where adults learn to navigate with their white canes.

Photo courtesy of Second Sense

An orientation and mobility class from Second

Accessible signage prototyping Photo by Christopher Bijalba

Inclusion in Action: Meet the Wehner Family

Pam and Brian Wehner love experiencing all Chicago has to offer. So, when their 11-year-old daughter Hadley was diagnosed with autism early in life, they wanted to ensure she was able to enjoy the same classic city experiences. However, they found it difficult to find accessible and welcoming places where they—and Hadley—felt comfortable and received support.

Then they found Lincoln Park Zoo. During their first visit, Hadley experienced sensory overload, but, for the first time, they weren't made to feel embarrassed or ushered out. On the contrary, zoo staff approached them to ask if they needed a quiet space, or if there was anything employees could provide to support the family.

The Wehners have been regular visitors ever since.

Hadley's love of animals and verbal communication skills have grown exponentially since the family began visiting the zoo regularly. And, the Wehners have become generous zoo donors.

As Pam shared, "(The zoo) is her safe space. It's been positive experience after positive experience and an education for her. You want your child who has so many obstacles in her way in this life to be able to experience as much as she can, and the zoo has been a welcoming environment to her. We are so grateful."





Photos courtesy of Pam Wehner

New and Now

For Wildlife. For All. More than a tagline, this statement is a commitment to being ready to welcome everyone to the zoo. We are constantly striving to make the experience of visiting Lincoln Park Zoo easy, engaging, memorable and fun. In the last year the zoo invested in these new guest resources.



A NEW ZOO APP

Lincoln Park Zoo introduced a new web app just in time for summer. The smartphone-friendly navigation tool makes it easy for guests to plan their visit, find their way around the zoo's 49-acre campus, and learn more about the animals in our care. In its first full month, the app was accessed by 14,000 users.



READING THE SIGNS

Those who haven't been to the zoo lately might be surprised to see digital signs in strategic new locations around the campus, including the East Gate, West Gate, Farm-in-the-Zoo, and Park Place Café. Launched in conjunction with the app, the signs help guests navigate their zoo experience and invite deeper exploration of and engagement with the zoo's initiatives to care for nature and wildlife here and around the world.

Funding for both the new app and the digital signage was provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity.

Photo by Christopher Bijalba



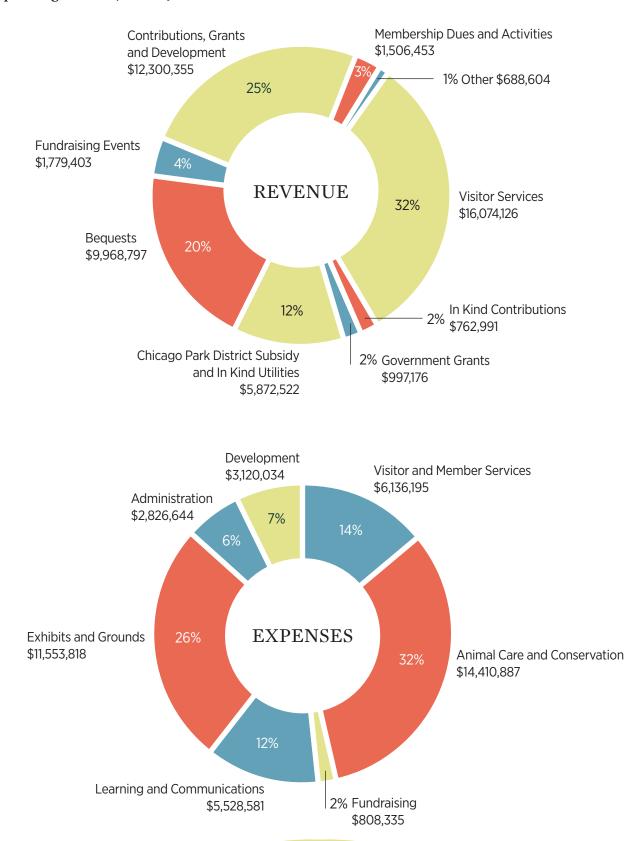
EARLY BIRD GETS THE ZOO

The zoo just introduced a new benefit for members monthly during the summer: Early Bird Mornings. Members and their families receive exclusive access to the zoo between 8–10 a.m. Free rides, warm beverages and admission to an animal building are offered during these dedicated members-only hours.

Photo by Lisa Miller

Financials

FY23 Operating Results (audited)



The Lincoln Park Zoological Society Statements of Financial Position March 31, 2024 and 2023 (audited).

ASSETS	FY 2024	FY 2023
Assets		
Cash	6,413,948	2,932,084
Investments	213,842,238	168,106,530
Investments - Other	31,360,673	37,168,386
Receivables		
Pledges and grants, net	8,566,014	13,696,007
Other	640,052	297,690
Other Assets	541,266	459,754
Property and Equipment, net	3,500,840	3,224,387
Total Assets	264,865,031	225,884,838

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	5,245,465	2,211,479
Annuities Payable	666,056	623,545
Deferred Revenue	903,571	638,399
Accrued Expenses	2,385,220	2,143,496
Bonds Payable, Net of Issuance Costs	70,354,000	70,354,000
Total Liabilities	79,554,312	75,970,919
Net Assets Donor Restrictions		
Without Restrictions	88,537,849	66,330,365
With Restrictions	96,772,870	83,583,554
Total Net Assets	185,310,719	149,913,919
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	264,865,031	225,884,838





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ZOO BALL 2023

On July 14, 2023, more than 740 guests celebrated Zoo Ball: Reaching New Heights. Co-chaired by Angie Euston and Nina Winston Kohn, the event was inspired by the zoo's conservation programs in Tanzania. The gala evening raised \$1.6 million to support the zoo's admission-free promise and initiatives in science, conservation, and public learning.

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Photo by Kyle Flubacker

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CHAIR'S DINNER

The Chair's Dinner is an annual celebration hosted by the zoo's Board Chair. The event recognizes Trustees and leadership donors to Lincoln Park Zoo. On September 28, 2023, 120 guests gathered at Café Brauer to hear about the zoo's expanding role in mitigating illegal wildlife trafficking. Dr. Chris Shepherd, Executive Director of Monitor Conservation Research Society and a vital partner in this work, served as guest speaker.

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CONSERVATORS' COUNCIL EVENT SERIES: DR. DAVID MORGAN

On March 13, 2024, the Conservators' Council—the zoo's premier philanthropy community—hosted Cocktails, Conservation and Communities: Protecting Apes in the Congo, featuring David Morgan, Ph.D., co-director of the zoo's Goualougo Triangle Ape Project (GTAP) in the Congolese basin. More than 80 friends gathered to learn from Dr. Morgan about recent accomplishments in the area, including the protection of 36 square miles of land adjacent to the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park.

Megan M. Wiegand and Chad Levine Mrs. and Mr. Ashley Williams April R. Wilson Claudia Winkler Theodore Wong and Kelly L. Turner Mr. and Mrs. Chad Yonker/Barnabas Foundation Hossein and Mary B. Youssefi Sara Zion Len and Pat Zolna Christine M. Zrinsky

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The following individuals and their families made gifts to all areas of the zoo's mission, including special programs, capital projects, and events between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024.

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ANNUAL MEETING 2023

More than 150 generous zoo donors attended the 64th Annual Meeting of The Lincoln Park Zoological Society and helped start a new tradition of spotlighting zoo programs through interactive stations on the zoo's Main Mall. Experts showcased the zoo's impact, organizing around several themes and initiatives including urban wildlife, animal care and welfare, mitigating the illegal wildlife trade, and public learning programs. The zoo also welcomed a new Board Chair, Fran Edwardson, and celebrated outgoing Board leader C. John Mostofi.



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AUXILIARY BOARD MARKS 40TH ANNIVERSARY!

In February 2024, Lincoln Park Zoo's Auxiliary Board marked its 40th anniversary by announcing a new multi-year commitment to support animal care and welfare initiatives. Over the next four years, Board members aim to raise \$400,000.

The Auxiliary Board's annual Zoo-ologie fundraiser took place on June 2, 2023. Co-chaired by Erin Coyle, AJ Jacobs, and Annika Najjar, the event engaged more than 350 guests, who enjoyed dining, dancing and learning about the zoo's horticulture programs and Nature Boardwalk.

The 37th Spooky Zoo welcomed 13,000 children of all ages to trick or treat at the zoo. Led by Stephanie Dubbeld, Mia Wagner, and Lucy Wright, the Halloween event exclusively features wildlife-friendly candy made with responsibly sourced palm oil. The harvesting of palm oil is a major threat to species across Asia and the leading cause of orangutan extinction, killing an estimated 1,000-5,000 orangutans each year.

HERITAGE SOCIETY

We honor friends who have made a commitment to the zoo's future through a will or trust provision, or other planned gift. Planned gifts include charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, gifts of retirement plan assets, gifts of life insurance and other beneficiary designations.

Key: *Deceased +New Member

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*Deceased

60 61 -

HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL LUNCHEON

More than 150 guests gathered at Café Brauer on May 18, 2023, for the zoo's 15th Annual Heritage Society Luncheon. The Heritage Society honors those who have made a future commitment to the zoo in their estate plan. Dave Bernier, General Curator, and Kristine Schad Eebes, Association of Zoos and Aquariums Population Management Center Director, spoke about the expert care and the science that goes into growing healthy zoo populations. Last year, the zoo welcomed more than 30 new Heritage Society members.



Photo by Lisa Miller

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IN MEMORIAM

We remember with fondness the following zoo donors, leaders and friends who have passed away since April 1, 2023.

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In Memoriam



PETER BARRETT

We celebrate the life and legacy of Peter Barrett. Peter had been a passionate supporter of and generous donor to the zoo since 1978. With his wife Betsy, he was a regular presence at the zoo and gifted hundreds of Adopt an Animal packages to friends and family during the holidays each year.

At his death, Peter made a generous bequest to support the zoo's endowment. We are grateful for Peter's commitment and the continued leadership of the Stone and Barrett family.



SAM ZELL

Sam Zell and his wife Helen have contributed to Lincoln Park Zoo for more than two decades with ongoing support from the Zell Family Foundation (ZFF).

As in business, Sam's philanthropy

was driven by his entrepreneurial spirit and a commitment to investing in big ideas. Lincoln Park Zoo is proud to be one of many Chicago institutions to benefit from ZFF's generous support. We honor Sam's life and legacy and the friendship of the Zell Family.



ROBERT CALLOWAY

Robert Calloway was a lover of wildlife, having ventured on safaris in Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and South Africa.

He greatly admired and appreciated the wildlife at Lincoln Park Zoo, and was grateful to the zoo for enriching our urban community and cultivating interest in the natural world.

Robert was a generous donor to the zoo for 24 years. He passed away on June 2, 2023, at 89. Robert is survived by his wife Geneva; his children Trent, Craig and Lia; his daughter-in-law Angela and two grandchildren.



DR. JOSEPH (YOSEF) WALDER

Dr. Joseph (Yosef) Walder, a former biochemistry professor and founder of IDT (Integrated DNA Technologies), the leading provider of synthetic RNA and DNA for life-sciences research, passed away in March of 2024. Even before becoming Cofounder of the Walder Foundation, Dr. Walder quietly supported hundreds of organizations locally and around the globe. The Walder Foundation has been an instrumental supporter of the Urban Wildlife Institute. Dr. Walder had an enormous impact on both the Chicago Jewish community that he served with such devotion, as well as the scientific community and the field of genomics, and is deeply missed.



DR. URSULA B. STORB

Ursula Storb, a longtime member of the Heritage Society, supported the zoo for more than three decades. Dr. Storb was a distinguished immunologist and Professor Emeritus of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology at the University of Chicago and became one of the first members of the Association of Women in Science in 1971.

Ursula was a scholar, a role model, and a passionate advocate for women in STEM fields. She was proud to see the zoo's own women-led science leadership grow in recent years.



JACK KANUK

Jack Kanuk was a dedicated zoo member for 45 years and a part of the Heritage Society. With his partner, Dick Foster, Jack owned and managed rental properties in and around Lincoln Park. Together, they refurbished many two- and three-flat buildings and were kind and generous landlords to hundreds of tenants over the years.

Jack enjoyed watching the little zoo in his neighborhood become the world-class institution it is today. He established a charitable remainder trust before his death, ensuring his legacy at the zoo. We miss this special neighbor and celebrate his many contributions to our community.



ROBERT WEBSTER

Robert Webster, Hope B.
McCormick Curator of Birds, joined
Lincoln Park Zoo in May of 2022.
He had extensive experience in
aviculture and husbandry from his
nine years at San Antonio Zoo and
as bird curator at Toledo Zoo for
16 years. Before joining the zoo,
he also held curatorial positions
at Cincinnati Zoo and Assiniboine
Park Zoo

Robert will be remembered as an expert caretaker, aviculturist, and mentor. Robert's passion for birds was evident in his work and life every day. He is survived by his sister and his beloved feline family.





LINCOLN PARK ZOO.

FOR WILDLIFE. FOR ALL.

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2024

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